The 26. of July. 1622.

A TRVE, PLAINE, AND COMPENDIOVS DISCOVRSE OF THE BESIEGING OF BERGEN VP ZOME, Shewing the late Actions of SPINOLAS Forces before the same.

With the Proceedings of the Prince of *Orange* before *Sattingambus*.

As also what hath happened of late to the rest of the Armies in the low Countries.

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1622.

A true, plaine, and Compendious Discourse of the Besieging of *Bergen vp Zome*, shewing the late Actions of *Spinola's* Forces before the same.

With the proceedings of the Prince of Orange *before* Sattingambus.

As also what hath happened of late to the rest of the Armies in the Low-*Countries.*

THIS attempt of *Spinola's* vpon *Bergen*, makes me remember that famous Siege in 1590. or thereabouts, when the Prince of *Parma* came before it with 30000. and continued the battery almost halfe a yeare.

But because I would reuiue the memory of famous men to the good example of others, and relate some passages worthy the obseruation to the renowne of vertuous and worthy exploites,

giue me leaue by way of introduction to ſpeake ſomething of thoſe times, and ſo by coherence of Story you ſhall ſee me fall into the matter now propoſed.

It pleaſed the Prince of *Parma* in the behalfe of the King of *Spaine*, being then his abſolute Gouernour in the Low Countries, after that euer memorable Victory in 88. to lay ſiege vnto *Bergen* with aboue 30000. men, as if hee reſolued to doe ſome thing worthy of his Honour, and memorable to poſterity, as it were in recouery of thoſe loſſes and fortunes, which both hapned to him and his Maſter at that time: but ſo many Skirmiſhes, Stratagems, and encounters were then put in practice, that hee was compelled to riſe and leaue the Siege, till better opportunity and fairer dayes.

I will not ſpeake a worde of neither Armies, nor their skirmiſhes, nor their Aſſaults, nor their Batteries, nor their Sallies, nor their ſtratagems, nor of *Grimſton* and *Redhead*, by whoſe pollicy and ſeruice, 400. of *Parma's* beſt Gentlemen loſt their liues: but of the brauery of the beſieged and the glory of the Engliſh, whoſe fame floriſhed ouer the world.

For in this ſiege, that Sonne of *Mars* the Lord *Willoughby* was Generall of the Engliſh, and ſuch a Generall, that his authority extended in beſtowing of honour vpon well deſeruers, which appeared in Knighting thoſe famous Dutchmen

Sir

Sir *Paul Buxe*, and Sir *Marcellus Buxe*, who afterward proued Gouernour of *Bergen*, and ſo continued many yeares.

But at this inſtant Sir *Thomas Morgan* a Colonell was Gouernour of the place, and had 6000. braue defendants in the Towne: there were alſo famous Commanders all Engliſh, the Lord *Borough* Gouernour of *Brill*, a ſpirit of vnmatchable Valour: Sir *Nicholas Parker* called Captaine of the blacke Lances: Sir *William Drury*, Sir *William Pellam*, and ſo many other, all Commaunders, that their well deſeruing commaunds me to ſilence, leaſt I ſhould by this my ſlender diſcourſe extenuate their Noble fame, and merit.

There came likewiſe as Voluntiers, and ſpectators of this Theater of Warre, the Right Honorable Earle of Northumberland, Sir *John Boroughs* and diuers others: yea heere were faire Ladies too, who were ſo farre from artificiall effeminatenes, that they ſcorned the ſmoake of powder, and knewe (beſides the iuſtification of their courages) that true beauty would not, nor could not be impaired with a little duſt, and vapours of a thickned ayre.

All theſe endured this Siege, and in ſteed of Courtly muſicke had the roaring Cannon ſounding in their eares: in ſteed of ſumptuous imbroderings, and beſpangled Cloakes with golde and Pearle, or other dainty ſights, many times beheld bloody Caſſocks, & wounded Soldiers:

and

and all the ſences both of men and women were here to ſuffer vnſauery obiects, and ſubiects, and to make tryall of their patience and conſtancy, which they did with perſeuerance to the end: yea this is moſt remarkeable, that when the Prince of *Parma* made his approaches, as if hee pretended a battery, and ſo a breach, the heroijck Lord *willoughby* ſent him word to ſpare that labour, if he pleaſed: For he ſhould haue a Port open, enter if hee could: whereupon the Prince was much amazed, and ſo hauing a full halfe yeares tryall of the buſines, and ſtill encombred with the dayly ſallies, and excurſions of the Soldiers, he thought it farre better to raiſe his ſiege with honour, and vpon equall tearmes, then aduenture ſo many liues, and yet (as he had beene in ſome caſes put to it) hazard his renowne with feareſull loſſe and detriment.

Let vs therefore ouerlooke their actions to vnderſtand, which way this ſiege comes about, and how time hath brought them into this threatning and danger.

After the taking in of *weſell* and *Gulick* by *Spinola*, wherein the firſt they left *Don Lewis de Valaſco* for Gouernour: and in the laſt *Henry Vando Bergen*, the Army retired to their ſeuerall Gariſons, and ſurely meant to repoſe themſelues in ſome reſt and quietnes, had not contrary to cuſtome, and the time of the yeare to draw men into the fields. *Don Ynigo*, Gouernour of the Citta-

dell

dell of *Antwarp*, proiected to doe ſomething worthy of his renowne, and the ſeruice of his Miſtreſſe the Arch-Dutches, and this was the beſieging of *Sluice*: whereupon hee vndertooke the buſineſſe in the beginning of Aprill laſt, with ſeuen or 8000. Wallons and Spaniards, diſpierſing them ſome to *Dyſendike*: ſome to St. *Katherine*, a Fort builded and poſſeſſed by the States, and ſome to ſuch places, where hee thought it moſt conuenient to beſtow them, reſoluing to enter vpon *Caſſant*, and other paſſages, whereby hee might with eaſe come vpon the bankes, and ſo bring his approches neerer the Towne, which to effect, he built a Fort, and put therein a Gariſon to come neerer and neerer, to ſet his deſigne on her beſt feet.

This he firſt attempted, when *Spinolas* Army watched the *Rhine*, & the Prince of *Orange* ouerlooked his Army by *Weſell*: and this hee did of purpoſe, as I take it, to diuert his Excellencie from following him any further, ſuppoſing hee would returne to defend a Towne of ſuch importance, as *Sluice* was: but the States had leiſure and meanes (without troubling the Prince of *Orenge* at all) to ſupply their wants, & ſend more Companies into the Towne: ſo that *Spinola* got nothing, but the loſſe of men, with cold, hunger, and ſickneſs all the Winter, and ſo conſumed his Army, that he tried many friends and Countries

to fill vp his troupes and Companies. At last, the Winter falling out so strange, and *Don Iniyo* perceiuing all accidents to counter-checke his pretences; he tooke another course for the time, and returned to *Antwarp*, doing no great matter about *Sluice*, but raising a Fort a little neerer, which they say hee could not effect without the losse of 800. men.

When my Lords the States vnderstoode of this retreat, and that *Cassant* and other Polders of land round about, were free from this threatning perill and displeasure, they aduised themselues for the best, and by a premeditated setled Councell, resolued not to loose *Sluice*, nor haue her hedges trodden downe round about her, that is, her Bulwarkes and Trenches demolished, or possessed by Strangers: whereupon they concluded to cut all the ditches, and let in the Sea, which they did in the end of February, and in which worke the Contributory Boores were imployed: and although it turned much to their preiudice, as loosing both land, and dwelling by this course: yet when they saw, it was for the seruice of the States, and the preseruation of the Towne, they quickly accorded, and played the Pyoners in the businesse.

They began behinde the Fort of St. *Cateline*, and so dispierced themselues to *Crines*, Saint *Margarite*,

Margarite, Saint *Hieronimo*, Saint *Iames*, the *Hermitage*, and many *Polders* of land, with the other Forts and Holds round about, but when the tide came in a pace: they made sure *Rowsellares*, *Hollands dike*, and many Fortifications on the other side, which might be preiudiciall to the maine businesse, so that at last the Sea swelled almost as farre as *Gaunt*, and the Enemy was glad to secure themselues by returning, and so the coast was in a manner cleared at this time: For *Monsieur de Hautin* the Gouernour of *Sluice*, made a salley with fifteene hundred, amongst whom were sufficient Commaunders, and well experienced Trenchers and Engineeres, who performed this worke in such a manner, that the principall Fortresses, which serued for the defence of *Sluice*, were all secured and kept vpright; and although the Sea swelled as farre as *Vedo* and *Buscams Vell*, yet was the land not comparable to the liues of so many braue Souldiers, who must needes perish, if this had not beene done, and the siege of *Sluice* once attempted throughly.

When *Spinola* vnderstood, what was done, hee retired in his person to *Brussels*, from the clamours of the Army, who began to want their pay, and murmur for lacke of imployment, and satisfaction: whereupon hee gaue the Commaunders leaue to promise them faire, and threaten once againe the surprising of *Sluice*,

Breda, and *Bergen*, as though they would haue three Armies on foote at once, and meant to make an end of the Warre in one Summer, to which they were the rather animated, because they heard of new supplies out of *England*, to fill vp the Regiments of the Earles of *Tyrone* and *Argile*, who were both heere entertained as Colonels vnder the Atchdutches seruice.

But when this threatning passed ouer without attempting any thing worthy of moment, the Prince of *Orenges* brother, *Graue Henry*, with fiue thousand foot, and sixe hundred horse, enters into *Brabant*, burning Villages, spoyling Townes, and forraging all the Countrey, in so much that the fires were seene at *Brussels*, and the Inhabitants ranne into their walled Townes for their preseruation: yea, when *Spinola* feasted the Ambassadours, and attended the determination of the truce, was this braue Souldier reading his Subiects a lesson of Warre and Slaughter, and tyed them to harder conditions then euer they learned in their lines; by which occasion hee mightily enriched himselfe, and returned to the *Hage* with great booty, spoile, treasure, and prisoners.

Whereby the Enemy grewe enraged, and thought vpon nothing but reuenge, which at last they effected vpon the surprizing of *Bergen vp Zoome*, wherein failing, they fell into the course of besieging

beſieging it, whereat they remaine at this houre; but becauſe many remarkeable thinges chanced in this preparation, I thinke it not amiſſe to order the Diſcourſe in this manner.

The Towne of *Bergen* is of as great importance to the States in Brabant, as *Sluice* in Flaunders: For as this watcheth *Oſtend*, *Newport*, *Dunkirke*, and other maritime Townes, yea openeth a doore to *Ipers*, *Gaunt* and all the land Countrey, that keepeth the Riuers, and is the Key of the continent letting you in to the fieldes of *Antwerpe*, *Thurmount*, *Auſchuroten*, and all the great Townes of *Brabant*: It ſtandeth on the Eaſt ſide of the Riuer of *Some*, comming from *Antwerpe*, & *Antwerpe* is ſcituated within 15. *Engliſh* mile, and was one of the famous Marte Townes of the world: and as this Bergen is the very Gate or entrance into the Countrey, ſo is it in a manner the barre and hinderance of the Enemy into Zealand and Holland: The States haue likewiſe diuers Sconces in the Iland of *Tole* or *Tertoll* of great reſpect and neceſſity, and within Fiue mile of Bergen, they poſſeſſe a Towne called *Steen Bergen*, on the Weſt banke of another Riuer comming out of the Countrey, at the mouth whereof, they haue another Sconce and other Fortes.

I will not ſpeake of *Breda*, and ſome places in

the States iurisdiction, nor how the Townes are diuided, though the whole Countrey in a manner is in the Arch-Dutchesse possession: but the truth is, that the Gouernour of *Antwerpe* taking aduantage of certaine Companies, which marched out of *Bergen* toward *Breda*, and vnderstanding that the Gouernour of *Bergen* was also absent, sent *Spinola* word of the same, who presently proiected to make vse thereof, and take aduantage of their absence: and the truth is, that the Gouernour being called as they say *Rehouen*, perceiuing his Commission growing to an end, and vnderstanding that the Prince of *Orenge* was comming with his Army toward *Breda*, tooke a Conuoy of 2000. and went thither with intent and purpose to renue his Patents, but ere hee came there, a Messenger was sent vnto him to returne in all hast to his Gouernment, for the Enemy was on foot and had some proiect in hand, which somewhat amazed him, considering as he thought hee had not full Authority to commaund the Garrisons: notwithstanding this meditation, the necessity of the time ouerswayed all nicety and exceptions, and hee returnes very opportunely with all his Company to the Towne.

Spinola followes his first purpose, and appoints 3000. from *Antwerpe* to giue the attempt: among whom they will haue the Earle

of

of *Argiles* Regiment to bee thrust: the charge and rule of this Company is committed into the hands of two Spaniards, the one called *Borgia*, the other *Velasco*, some say *Lewis de Velasco* Gouernour of *Wesell*, who vnderstanding the resolution of the Armies to quarter about *Brabant*, found occasion to bee dispenced withall, and attend the seruice nearer home.

Well, let the Names passe, the Company march downe apace, and with all expedition take the same side of the Riuer where *Bergen* stands, but it should seeme they came short halfe a day at least: For before they had marched 7. English mile, they vnderstand how *Bergen* was supplyed (as you haue heard) yet they goe forward, and come at last to their Rendeyuous, where they grewe so angry and exasperated, that they would needs giue an attempt in a rage both on the Wall, and at the Ports, where the Cannon from the Towne played so violently, and the Musket at rest shot so effectually, that they lost 600. men at the first assault, the most of them Irish and English newly come out of their Countries.

This began on Wednesday as I take it the Tenth of Iuly: the next day they attempted againe, and proffered another Assault, but heere they

they were repulsed with a Salley, in which a valiant Colonell Scotchman lost his life in the behalfe of the Towne, but it was a deare losse to the Enemy: For before the skirmish ended, there lay 200. on the ground, and they were enforced to retire, some will haue them fight the third day likewise, but I thinke that was imployed in another busines, for the Enemy finding the resistance of this strong Towne, tooke another course and marched to a weaker, I meane *Steen-Bergen*, which not able to endure either battery or assault, they easily tooke by composition, as also a Sconce by it, which they obtained with finall repulse.

I haue yet said little of the Prince of *Orange*, who thought as little of this attempt or enterprise, but onely supposed that Breda or Sluice might bee the obiect of his Sommers imployment, and so the Warre to continue either in Brabant or Flaunders, whereupon hee brought downe most of his Forces, and setled himselfe a while about *Schetogen Bosch*, and was (as they said) himselfe gone toward *Rees*, where hee surueyed the Townes in the States possession, and tooke order, that all the Garrisons should bee ready to come into the Field at his appointment, for which purpose hee also sent to the Commaunders and Captaines that were in England, to come ouer with expedition.

In

In the meane while this was done, as you haue heard, the Gouernour *Reehouen* returned to his charge, and ordred *Bergen* againſt the Obſeſſion and expugnation, if *Spinola* ſo determined the matter.

Now they will haue 2000. foote, and 300. horſe all ready in the towne, amongſt whom they haue named the companies of Sir *Th. winn*, Sir *Michaell Everet*, Captaine *Appleton*, who had married a Dutch woman and dwelt in the ſame place, with diuers others attending the ſeruice, and the iſſue of theſe troubles: the greateſt part of the army lying, as I ſayd, about *Breda*, a towne of their owne, and *Schetogen Boſch* belonging to the Arch-Dukes, which peraduenture they determined to beſiege, howeuer they may now be diſappointed, either in raiſing the enemy from *Bergen*, or imploying themſelues to ouer-looke their actions, if they continue there this Sommer.

By this time *Spinola* vnderſtands what is done on both ſides, and how his forces haue beene diſappointed, which made him alter his purpoſe for a Rendez-vous at *Maeſtrich*, and draw all his Garriſons toward *Antwarp* out of *Mechlin*, *Arſchot*, *Huſſet*, *Biſſell*, and other townes and villages, where they had wintred: ſo that though he lay himſelfe ſtill in perſon at *Bruſſels* vpon greater matters of importance: yet he diſpoſed of his buſines, that the country was reſolued, he determined an abſolute ſiege: for 15. peeces of Ordnance were ſent out of *Antwarp* downe the Riuer, and 10000. more men marched by land to the new begun Campe. Hee

alſo ſent ſupplyes to the Gouernour of *Gaunt*, with a ſpeciall command to haue an eye vpon *Sluiſe*, and make ſome attempt that way, as occaſion ſhall ſerue. It is alſo ſayd that the Gouernours of *Ipren* and *Liſſe* in *Flanders*, who had loſt a ſonne in a skirmiſh in the *Palatinate*, deſired to bee at this ſeruice.

All this while the ſiege is but preparing, for the army was not quite come downe, nor the prouiſion for the expugnation brought together, as Hurdles, Gabions, Cariages, Munition, Traces for horſes, Carts, Wagons, and ſuch like: yet was ſome extraordinary matter accompliſhed: for the Poſt of *Antwarp* reports, and the letters certifie as much that they heard the Cannon play thither: ſo that by all likelihood it is fully reſolued, and the *Spaniards* ſettle themſelues to the enterpriſe, although they want men to fill vp their companies, as hauing loſt this winter by caſualty at leaſt 6000.

They ſay, that in the firſt attempt there were ſo many dead bodyes, that thirty Wagons at once haue come with them into *Antwarp*, and in the latter enterpriſes the towne was ſo ſtrong and well prouided, that they made diuers ſallies ere their enemies could be ſetled to their much preiudice, and retired themſelues to their faſtneſſe at pleaſure

Other letters aſſure vs, that the country ſending in three hundred Wagons with prouiſion to ſupply the wants of the army, which began already to feele ſome inconueniences: they were ſet vpon by ſome of his *Excellencies* troopes and companyes lying about *Breda*, as they were going ouer the Heaths

Heathes, wide of *Antwerp*, and ſo after a skirmiſh ſurpriſed: for the Conuoy lagging behinde, and not keeping together with the reſt, ſmarted for the diſorder, and were compelled to ſhift for themſelues.

When the States of *Holland* vnderſtood of all theſe proceedings, they beſtirred themſelues and ſent diuers men of warre to attend about *Zealand*, of which ſome of them ſtept into the riuer, to intercept ſuch boates, as ſhould come from *Antwerp* to the army: the reſt that kept the Sea behaued themſelues ſo well, that the Letters ſay, they tooke a ſhip full of Souldiers going to *Dunckirke*, whom they examined and finding that the Souldiers knew no other, but that they went into the Low Countries, they hanged vp the Lieutenant and carried all the reſt priſoners to *Middleburgh*, reſoluing to watch for thoſe companies which are cõming out of *England* to ſerue the Archduches. For rumor cannot be ſo ſparing but that they know by name the Captaines of euery Countrey and the manner of raiſing their men.

Amongſt other things the Marchants aſſure vs, that at this inſtant there lie fiftie or ſixtie ſayle of *Hollanders* and Pirates of *Argier* before *Lisbone*, who not onely watch the harbours and townes but the Sea it ſelfe, as hauing made a contract with thẽ of *Tunis* alſo to aſſociate and defend one anothers, both againſt *Spaniards* and *Portugals*, whom they reſolue to empouerish and damnifie all they can, as men reſolued to haue neither peace nor truce any longer with them.

But to returne to the ſiege at *Bergen*, for all theſe attempts it is ſuppoſed that the ſiege will not lye long before it, nor the enemy continue with ſuch reſolution, as to make it a worke of ſuch conſequence, but euen doe as the Duke of *Parma* did in the beginning of this relation leaue it, and take ſome other enterpriſe in hand, and that for diuers reaſons at this inſtant.

Firſt, becauſe they cannot command the Riuer, but the towne will be relieued at all times by Sea, which they cannot auoyde.

Secondly, becauſe the ſeate of the warre is now as it were in their owne countrey, and the Prince of *Orenges* army muſt both be releeued and ſet on worke in *Brabant*, euen to the terrifying of the inhabitants.

Thirdly, becauſe rumor hath played a womans part, and told them that ſome of Count *Mansfields* forces are come out of *Alſatia*, as farre as *Loraine* and *Lutzenberg*: and either meane to bee their owne caruers of the bleſſings of theſe Prouinces, or vnite themſelues to the Prince of *Orenge*, if occaſion ſerue to increaſe his army, and remoue the ſiege.

Fourthly, becauſe they are afraide to want momoney, conſidering their treaſure is ſo many waies exhauſted, and the Emperor muſt not be neglected in his deſignes.

And laſt of all, becauſe there are many hollow hearts in *Antwarp*, and what know they whether (beſides the treaſon that may bee wrought) the Prince of *Orenge* if the peace of the *Palatinate* thriue,

thriue, will ſend for the Duke of *Brunſwicke*, and ſet him on worke on theſe good townes: ſo that whether *Tilley* follow or no, or that *Gonzales* come to *Spinola* againe, yet muſt a bloody warre enſue, and the 17. Prouinces in the end ſmart for all.

FINIS.